

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Serial No.: Divisional of 09/537695 Art Unit: 3643

Filed: July 25, 2001 Examiner: Little, W.

For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR MAKING AN INCISION IN THE
SKIN OF A SLAUGHTERED ANIMAL, AND FOR
PERFORMING A SUBCUTANEOUS OPERATION

Box Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attorney Docket No. V0028/260870
Date: July 25, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is respectfully submitted in connection with the
above-referenced application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the two lines immediately following the words "CROSS-
REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" and insert the following paragraph in
place thereof:

--This application is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 09/537,695 filed on March 28,
2000, now allowed, which is a continuation of PCT/NL98/00561 filed on September 29,
1998, which claims priority to PCT/NL97/00540 filed on September 29, 1997.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

58. (Amended) A method for processing a slaughtered bird comprising
breaking at least one tissue connection between the belly skin and the viscera of the bird
prior to evisceration of the carcass of the bird.

59. (Amended) The method of claim 58, wherein the at least one tissue connection is broken at least partially by separating means introduced into the carcass of the bird through a hole in the skin.

60. (Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein the separating means are rotated in the carcass.

62. (Amended) A device for processing a slaughtered bird prior to evisceration of the bird comprising separating means for breaking tissue connections between the belly skin and the viscera.

63. (Amended) The device of claim 62, further comprising first moving means for moving the separating means in the carcass through a hole in the skin.

64. (Amended) The device of claim 63, wherein the first moving means move the separating means in a rotating manner.

66. (Amended) The device of claim 63, further comprising second moving means for placing a protection element in the carcass prior to or during moving the separating means in the carcass.

67. (Amended) A method for inserting a substantially elongated element with a free end under the skin of the belly of a slaughtered bird which is provided with a hole in the skin, such as an opening obtained by cutting out the vent, comprising:

inserting a protection element through the hole and into the bird, wherein the protection element comprises a stop face adapted for pushing away the viscera from the hole;

positioning the free end of the elongated element in the hole near the stop face;
and

rotating the elongated element to insert the free end of the elongated element under the skin.

68. (Amended) A device for processing a slaughtered bird, comprising:
a substantially elongated element for insertion under the skin of the belly of the bird;

a protection element for insertion into the bird through a hole in the skin, wherein the element comprises a stop face adapted for pushing away the viscera from the hole;

moving means for positioning the free end of the elongated element in the hole near the stop face and for rotating the elongated element for inserting the free end of the elongated element under the skin.

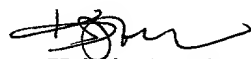
Please add the following new claims:

-- 70. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the hole in the skin is an opening obtained by cutting out the vent. --

-- 71. (New) The device of claim 63, wherein the hole in the skin is an opening obtained by cutting out the vent. --

-- 72. (New) The device of claim 68, wherein the hole in the skin is an opening obtained by cutting out the vent. --

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked up version of claims

Divisional of U.S. Serial No. 09/537695

58. (Amended) A method for processing a slaughtered bird [prior to evisceration of the carcass of the bird, wherein] comprising breaking at least one tissue connection[s] between the belly skin and the viscera[, in particular between the belly fat situated on the inside of the belly skin and the stomach, are broken] of the bird prior to evisceration of the carcass of the bird.

59. (Amended) The method of claim 58, [comprising introducing] wherein the at least one tissue connection is broken at least partially by separating means introduced into the carcass of the bird through a hole in the skin[, such as an opening obtained by cutting out the vent, in order to break the tissue connections].

60. (Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein the separating means are [moved in a rotating manner] rotated in the carcass.

62. (Amended) A device for processing a slaughtered bird prior to evisceration of the [carcass of the] bird[,] comprising separating means for breaking tissue connections between the belly skin and the viscera[, in particular between the belly fat situated on the inside of the belly skin and the stomach].

63. (Amended) The device of claim 62, further comprising first moving means for moving the separating means in the carcass through a hole in the skin[, such as an opening obtained by cutting out the vent].

64. (Amended) The device of claim 63, wherein the first moving means [are designed for moving] move the separating means in a rotating manner.

66. (Amended) The device of claim [62] 63, further comprising second moving means for placing a protection element in the carcass prior to or during moving the separating means in the carcass.

67. (Amended) A method for inserting a substantially elongated element with a free end under the skin of the belly of a slaughtered bird which is provided with a hole in the skin, such as an opening obtained by cutting out the vent, comprising [the steps]:

inserting a protection element through [said] the hole and into the bird, [said] wherein the protection element [having] comprises a stop face [which is] adapted for pushing away the viscera from [said] the hole;

positioning the free end of the elongated element in [said] the hole near [said] the stop face; and

rotating the elongated element[, in order] to insert the free end of the elongated element under the skin.

68. (Amended) A device for processing a slaughtered bird, comprising:

a substantially elongated element for insertion under the skin of the belly of the bird;

a protection element for insertion into the bird through a hole in the skin, [such as an opening obtained by cutting out the vent, said] wherein the element [having] comprises a stop face [which is] adapted for pushing away the viscera from [said] the hole;

moving means for positioning the free end of the elongated element in [said] the hole near [said] the stop face[,] and for rotating the elongated element for inserting the free end of the elongated element under the skin.

-- 70. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the hole in the skin is an opening obtained by cutting out the vent. --

-- 71. (New) The device of claim 63, wherein the hole in the skin is an opening obtained by cutting out the vent. --

-- 72. (New) The device of claim 68, wherein the hole in the skin is an opening obtained by cutting out the vent. --

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